



INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIRD HIDE PHOTOGRAPHERS



1. Bird hide (tower) for flight shots, Two (2) photography spots,
2. Large bird hide, 3 spots,
3. Large bird hide, 3 spots,
4. Round bird hide, 1 spot (new 2012)
5. Small hide for taking shots of rising Ospreys, 1 photography spot,
6. Hide for taking shots of rising ospreys, One (1) photography spot.

Photography spots at the Wetland Area Tower (9), at the Public Osprey tower (8) and at the High Tower (7) are not included in the bird hide rental.

Bird Hides 1-6 are located around the Osprey pond. You can book Bird Hides 1-6 in advance using our online booking system. We rent all hides at a time for one photographer and his/her 1-3 fellow photographers for 1-6 days. Prices are on the Photography/Instructions –page.

If there are several photographers in the group, the fee will be charged from all group members.

1. Park your car in the parking area near the public osprey tower. There is a wood covered path to the public osprey tower and the photography area behind the bridge of a small river. The bird hides will appear in front of you on the right.
2. You can use the same key to all hides. The other key fits to all 3 gates in the area.
3. Please respect the ospreys by going into the bird hide immediately after you arrive - this way the disturbance to the birds can be minimized. You should never hang around outside the hides to e.g. have a cigarette or chat with your companion. At noon you can exit the hides for lunch and/or coffee, as the ospreys rarely prey at this time of the day.
4. Photographers are not allowed to use their own photography hides, tents etc. around the Osprey nutrition pool. Likewise using remote equipments (remote cameras with tripods, audio recording equipments etc.) is strictly prohibited around the pool or in the vicinity. So, when using auxiliary equipments they have to stay with you in the bird hide!
5. When taking photographs, you can place your camera onto the shelf to lean against the sandbags, or onto the separate bird hide mount with 3/8" male screw, in which case a ball-head or video-head is needed. You can also use your own tripod (in practice, this has proved to be challenging).
6. When adjusting your camera's position you must always take into account that the **camera's lens shall not be placed too far outside of the window**. The front lens should only barely extend outside the cover curtain. Please make sure that the cover curtain does not have any slots through which the bird can see your face. The windows have membrane surfaces that prevent the bird from seeing directly inside the bird hide. However, do not place your face or your hands too close to the glass surface, as your movement can be detected by the bird in spite of the cover membrane.

7. If an osprey lands onto the hollow trees, electric poles, electric fences or branches, pay extra attention. The bird can easily detect even the smallest of camera movements. If the bird makes a sharp or suspicious call, you have been too careless when shifting your camera. In this case, the most sensitive ospreys immediately take flight and leave the area or start their observing flight above the fishing pools. You should always respect the birds of prey. You should photograph on the birds' conditions, not yours! Remember also that there might be other viewers or photographers at the public watchtower. If you discard these instructions, their bird-watching opportunities might be lost, too.
8. Please observe the birds arriving at the pool area very carefully. When the osprey has clearly started his prey or even taken off to plunge into the water you can shift your camera more quickly. In case there are several ospreys at prey simultaneously, they will reveal themselves with a greeting call.
9. Before you exit the bird hide, always make sure that there are no ospreys at prey at the fishing pool area.
10. There are dozens of photographers visiting the area during the summer, so it is important that also you ensure that the ospreys can prey without any disturbances. If you chose to discard these instructions, you might be able to take a great shot or two, but simultaneously you would cause even the more trusting osprey individuals to behave very cautiously. The most sensitive osprey individuals can start avoiding the fishing pool area entirely due to just a few camera disturbances. Please remember to behave in a respectful and careful manner.
11. Please pick up the trash you might have left behind! The next photographer will most likely attend the hide only a few hours after you. Tidiness is important inside the hides as well.
12. In case you notice any troublemakers in the area during your photography session (delinquents, fish thieves, or any kind of attempt of mischief), please notify us by calling +358 400 499 395 or +358 40 528 3030. There should not be any other people at the fishing pool area, except the maintenance staff feeding the fishes and cleaning the pools.
13. The revenues from the bird hides and public watchtower cover approximately half of the maintenance costs of the summer season. Hence the revenues from your bird hide booking will be directly targeted at the conservation of ospreys.
14. The weather will essentially affect the number of ospreys visiting the fishing pool as well as their preying behavior. Ospreys are always a challenging target of photography. You are most welcome to visit Pohtiolampi again in case you were not able to capture that magical shot during this session - an osprey with three salmon trouts at his claws, a drop of water on his beak, a flash of sunrise at the corner of his eye...

Good luck!

Osprey Foundation